

## Editorials.

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### The Enemies of the Medical Profession.

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THE *Cleveland Medical Gazette* for August has a very able editorial on the above subject. The evils of the dispensary system, now found in towns and cities are pointed out. What the editorial regards as even a greater evil than the dispensary abuse is the sale of patent medicines. By the sale of proprietary mixtures a very large amount of the treatment is being carried on. Then again there is a system of spreading and advertising being done by members of the profession. There is a continuous effort to appear in the press and advertise operations and cures.

The *British Medical Journal* for August 28th also deals with the same topic. It points out that the dispensary abuse is not likely to increase much. On the other hand the sale of patent medicines and quackery is bound to increase, and the public are not going to enact laws to benefit the medical profession in these respects. The extensive prescribing by chemists is also another great evil which the *British Medical Journal* sees no means of controlling. This journal states that the medical profession in a certain period has increased 20 per cent., while the population has only increased 7 per cent. Surely any one can see the effects from such a state of affairs.

When these facts are set down on one side, and the lengthier and more expensive course of study now as compared with twenty years ago, the man who takes his course now has not as good a chance of making an income as he had in 1877. It is stated that there are 400 physicians in St. Louis little above the level of starvation. In Brooklyn and many other large cities many have quit the profession, and not a few are serving as motormen on street cars. Notwithstanding all this, the schools are pouring out their announcements and further overcrowding the profession.

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### Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

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THE address delivered before the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, before the recent meeting of the British Medical Association, by Dr. J. W. Sinclair, of Manchester, is a masterpiece. It should be read and re-read by every practitioner. We remember the late S. P.